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SENATORS EYE THE CIA

The Probe of the Prober

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The Central Intelligence Agency, the sacred cow of executive bureaus, is about to be fenced in a little on Capitol Hill.

The CIA has enjoyed almost complete freedom since its inception in 1947. Capitol Hill has been sympathetic to its plea that if too many people knew what it is doing, it would have to stop doing it.

The change in sentiment, reflected in a Senate Foreign Relations Committee vote last week, is due, apparently, more to CIA's recent hapless interventions at home than its well-publicized misadventures abroad.

Says Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., author of a resolution to put the agency under the surveillance of a new and larger Senate committee:

"A lot of people who weren't concerned about the Bay of Pigs are concerned about a CIA man not identified as such writing an article for the Foreign Affairs quarterly."

The disclosure that the author of "The Faceless Viet Cong," which appears in the April issue of the magazine, was an employee of the agency, was ill-received by the liberals and scholars on the Foreign Relations Committee.

George A. Carver Jr., the writer was identified in the magazine as "a student of political theory and Asian affairs, with degrees from Yale and Oxford, a former officer of the Agency for International Development in Saigon and the author of 'Aesthetics and the Problem of Meaning.'"

McCarthy and committee Chairman J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., both ex-professors, protested at the presentation of the administration line on Viet Nam as coming from a disinterested scholar.

Fulbright is especially concerned that the CIA might use its famous student exchange and scholarship program as a cover.

The civil liberties community is exercised over disclosures that the agency is involved in a bizarre case now in the Baltimore courts. One Estonian nationalist leader who accused another Estonian nationalist leader of being a Communist has claimed immunity because he is a CIA agent.

"Why is the CIA mixed up in Estonian groups?" asks McCarthy. "If they are infiltrated by Communists what difference does it make?"

McCarthy, an outspoken opponent of the late Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin, says, "We more or less accept the fact that morality and integrity stop at the water's edge. But when you see the same rule applying at home, it's time to call a halt."

The CIA also has made a host of enemies on American campuses since its contracts with various universities have been made public.

McCarthy opposed the confirmation of former Atomic Energy Commission Chairman John McCone as director of the CIA in 1962 on a point of academic freedom.

He charged that McCone, who was confirmed, had

attempted to bring about the firing of 10 California Institute of Technology professors who publicly supported Adlai Stevenson's 1956 appeal for a nuclear test ban. Retired Adm. William F. Raborn is now the CIA director.

The McCarthy resolution, which would create a new body including three members of Foreign Relations, will almost inevitably be viewed as yet another confrontation between the White House and Capitol Hill.

Ten years ago, when Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, now the majority leader, vainly proposed a joint committee to oversee CIA, he warned of "a trend towards more and more power in the hands of the executive branch of the government and less and less power in the legislature."

"As time passes," said Mansfield in 1956, "Congress will be less of an equal branch and more power will rest in the hands of the executive."

Everyone agrees that if that were true in the Eisenhower administration, it is 10 times as true in the regime of Lyndon B. Johnson.